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27 October 1981

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FROM:

Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT:

Referral of Manuscripts to DOD

for Publication Review

- 1. In mid-September I had a conversation with Clay Thompson, Director of FOI and Security Review, Office of the Secretary of Defense (2C757 Pentagon, telephone 697-8120), regarding our referral of manuscripts to them for publication review.
- 2. Picking up on the fact that they submit some manuscripts to us for clearance when they recognize our equities being discussed, I advised that we saw it appropriate to do the same in turn, noted our tight deadlines for review prescribed by internal regulation, and asked for his views.
- stemming from the differences in our respective situations; i.e., he was aware that we had such a regulation and were able to have some enforcement based on the signing of the secrecy agreement. DOD, however, has no such element of control, except for reserve officers, in which cases there may be some control (not further clarified). Based on their experience in dealing with authors over whom they have no control, they feel that if we could be certain that any information to which DOD would object would be taken out, then DOD would be willing to review the manuscript. On the other hand, if deletion by the author cannot be assured, then DOD would just as soon not review the manuscript because it serves only to reveal to the author that which DOD still considers to be sensitive. I told Mr. Thompson that I understood his position, but regretted that that certainty was difficult to come by in the realities of things, secrecy agreement or no. I advised him that we would take their position into account in the future when we considered submitting a manuscript to them on referral.

Distribution:

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